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A
T E S T I M O N Y
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The LORD and his TRUTH:

Given forth by the Women Friends at their Yearly-Meeting at YORK; being a tender Salutation of Love to their Friends and Sisters in their several Monthly-Meetings, in this County and elsewhere.

Dear Friends and Sisters,

WE being met together in the Fear of the Lord, to wait upon him for his ancient Power to order us, and in his Wisdom and Counsel to guide us in our Exercise relating to Church Affairs; it hath pleased him to break in amongst us in a glorious Manner, to our great Satisfaction, and to fill our Meeting with his living Presence, and crown our Assembly with his heavenly Power, and open the Fountain of Life unto us; and the Streams of his Love have been felt freely to flow amongst us, and run from Vessel to Vessel, to the gladdening of our Hearts, which causeth living Praises, and hearty Thanksgiving, to be rendered unto him who alone is worthy.

And, Friends, we hereby signify to you, that here have been many living Testimonies delivered amongst us, from the divine Openings of the Spirit of Life in many Brethren and Sisters, whereby we are fully satisfied that the Lord is well pleased with this our Service, and doth accept our Sacrifices and free-will Offerings, and returns an Answer of Peace into our Bosoms, which is greatly our Reward: Here hath also been brought several Testimonies in Writing from divers of our Monthly-Meetings, to our great Satisfaction, touching the Care of Friends, for the Honour of God, and Prosperity of Truth in one another. And, dear Friends, in that unchangeable Love and precious Truth of our God, we dearly salute you, wherein our Relation and Acquaintance with him, and one with another in Spirit, is daily

daily renewed, and our Care and Concern for his Honour, and one another's Good, is still continued: And therein we see there is as great Need as ever, to watch over one another for Good, though it hath pleased God, in his infinite Mercy and Love, to give us a Day of Ease and Liberty as to the outward, and hath broken the Bonds of many Captives, and hath set the Oppressed free, and opened the Prison-doors in a good Measure; living Praises be given to him for ever. And now, Friends, it is our Desire that we all may make a right Use of it, and answer the End of the Lord in it, and neither take nor give Liberty to that Part in any, which may give the Lord Occasion to suffer our Bonds to be renewed, but in his Fear and holy Awe walk humbly before him in a holy and self-denying Life, under the Cross of Christ Jesus, which daily crucifies us to the World, and the World to us, and teacheth us to deny Ungodliness and worldly Lusts, and to live righteously and soberly in this present World; that by our holy Lives and righteous Conversations, others seeing our good Works, may glorify our heavenly Father; and that by our Truth-like and *Christian* Behaviour, and down-right Dealing in all our Affairs amongst the Children of Men, we may walk as becomes the Truth. And, dear Friends, join not with any sort of People further than will stand with Truth's Honour, and reach God's Witness in every Conscience, but as much as in you lieth live peaceably with all Men, and do Good unto all, especially unto the Household of Faith; and so daily fulfil the royal Law of Love, in shewing to all Men that you are Christ's Disciples, by loving him and one another.

And, Friends, we cannot but warn you of the separating Spirit which leads unto Strife, Contention and Jangling, and would thereby lay waste your Concern for God's Honour and one another's Good; this is that old Adversary and Enemy of Mankind, who in all Ages went about like a roaring Lion, seeking whom he might devour; and, as a ravenous Wolf, sometimes gets the Sheep's Cloathing, and never wants specious Pretences to accomplish his Design, and bring about his End, which is to divide, rend, tear, destroy, and separate from God and one from another, and would lay waste the Heritage of God, and make Spoil of his Plantation, and leave his tender Plants without Care, in the Briars and Thorns, and every hurtful Weed to wrap about them to hinder their Growth, and draw them out of their Order; by reason of which, as in the Days of old, the Way of Truth might be evil spoken of: The Lord disappoint him of his Purpose, and frustrate him of his End, is our Prayer; and keep us livingly sensible, that the End of the Lord, in all his fatherly Corrections, gentle Chastisements, and kind Reproofs, hath been to preserve us from the Snares of the Enemy: Therefore, dear Friends, be concerned for the Preservation of one another in every of your respective Monthly-meetings, and be faithful in performing your Service and Duty to God and one to another (as he opens it in you, and lays it upon you) in Exhortation, Admonition and Reproof, in tender
Love,

Love, for so it will be as the Balm of *Gilead* unto those who are wounded by the Wiles of the Enemy. For, dear Friends, it is the very End of our Travail and Labour of Love, *That the Hungry may be fed, the Naked clothed, the Weak strengthened, the Feeble comforted, and the Wounded healed*; so that the very weakest and hindermost of the Flock may be gathered into the Fold of Rest and Safety, where no Destroyer can come, where the Ransomed and Redeemed by the Lord have the Songs of Deliverance and high Praises in their Mouths, giving him the Honour who alone is worthy for ever.

And, Friends, let us ever remember the tender Dealings and Mercies of the Lord to us, and that it was not for our Deserts, nor any Worthiness in us, but his own Good-will, and for his Seed's Sake, in which he heard our many Cries, and had Regard to our Tears, and helped us through many Exercises and Trials inwardly and outwardly, and hath been our Rock and Refuge, and our sure hiding Place, in many Storms and Exercises, and yet preserves in perfect Peace all those that trust in him, who keeps his new Creation full of Joy; and the Voice of Thanksgiving and Melody is heard in our Land, and the Lord becomes unto us the Place of broad Rivers, and makes us before him as well watered Gardens, and affects our Hearts with his divine Love to praise his Name.

And now to you young Women, whom our Souls love, and whom the Lord delighteth to do Good unto, and hath visited with Tastes of his Love; be you ordered by him in all Things, that in your modest and chaste Behaviour, your comely and decent Dresses in your Apparel, and in all other Things, you may be good Examples to others, not only those that are without, but to some professing the Faith; that in the Line of Life, and Language of Truth, we may speak one to another and say, *Arise you Daughters of Sion, shake yourselves from the Dust of the Earth, put on the beautiful Garments, even the Robes of Righteousness, the Saints Cloathing, the Ornament of a meek and quiet Spirit.* And be not too careful for Preferment or Riches in this World, but be careful to know the Lord to be your Portion, and the Lot of your Inheritance: Then Testimonies will arise as in the Days of old, *Our Lot is fallen in a good Ground, we have large Possessions.*

And, Friends, be not concern'd in Reference to Marriage out of God's Fear, but first wait to know your Maker to become your Husband and the Bridegroom of your Souls, then you will come to know that you are not your own, but that he must have the ordering and disposing of you in Soul, Body and Spirit, which are all his; for he being the only One unto you, and the chiefest of Ten Thousand amongst you, he will be your Beloved and your Friend: O Friends! this State is happy, and blessed are they that attain it, and live in it; the Lord is not unmindful of them, but in his own Time, if he see it
good

good for them, can provide Meet-helps for them ; then will your Marriage be honourable, being orderly accomplished with the Assent of Parents, and the Unity of Friends, and an Honour to God, and Comfort to your own Souls ; then Husbands and Children, all a Blessing in the Hand of the Lord ; and you will arise in your Day, Age and Generation, as Mothers in *Israel*, as those holy Ancients whose living Testimonies reach to us, and blessed Memories live with us, according to our Measures ; as *Lydia*, open hearted to God and one to another ; as *Dorcas*, careful to do one another Good ; as *Deborah*, concerned in the Common-wealth of *Israel* ; and as *Jael*, zealous for the Truth, who was praised above Women.

And you Friends, who are under the present Concern, and in your Day's Work, do it not negligently, nor with careless Minds, but be you diligent in every of your Women's Meetings, and order two faithful Women, in every Meeting, to take the Care upon them, and so far as may answer Truth, do your Endeavours that nothing be practised amongst you, but what tends to God's Honour and one another's Comfort ; let nothing be indulged or connived at in any, whereby Truth is dishonoured ; and let that be cherished and encouraged in all, wherewith Truth is honoured : And these our Testimonies cast not carelessly into a Corner, but sometimes peruse them, and mark well the wholsom Advice therein, that our Travail may be answered, the Lord honoured, and you reap the Benefit ; and let a right Record be kept from Month to Month, and from Year to Year, of the Lord's Dealing with us, and Mercy to us, to future Ages, that from Age to Age, and one Generation to another, his own Works may praise him : To whom all Praises belong, and be they ascribed, both now and for ever.

From our Yearly-Meeting at YORK, the 28th of the Fourth Month, 1668. 1688.

Signed on the Behalf of the Meeting, by

CATHARINE WHITTON,
JUDITH BOULBY,
ELIZABETH SEDMAN,
FRANCES TAYLOR,

MARY WAITE,
DEBORAH WINN,
ELIZABETH BECKWITH,
MARY LINDLEY.